



# February 2026



## In This Issue

Pastor Leslie's Message.....	2-3
Church Council News.....	4
Anniversaries.....	5
Birthdays.....	6
December 2025 Giving.....	7
Page Turners.....	8-9
Because God Loved Us First.....	10
Black History Month.....	11
American Heart Month .....	12
Molly's Services OnLine.....	13
Valentine's Day.....	14
Valentine's Day Word Search.....	15
February Calendar of Events.....	16

*love* A handwritten-style word "love" with a small red heart at the end of the "e".

# A Message from Pastor Leslie

This month we get to celebrate welcoming new members into our congregation. It means I've been thinking a lot about what it means to be a member in the UMC.

While most people are members of a particular church, like Washougal, clergy are members of the denomination – specifically their conference. I am not a member of WUMC, I am a member of the PNW Annual Conference. What that means is that while I am deeply committed to you as my church right now, I am a member of the larger church denomination. If and when the Bishop decides another local church needs me more, or you need someone else, my vow is to go. You are part of the Annual Conference as well! Each year we join in financially, called apportionments. These funds pay the Bishop and other conference staff, and provide funding for the various ministries of our conference. WUMC is also represented by a member who can vote on all matters brought to the floor at the meeting of the Annual Conference (the yearly "business" meeting of the churches). If you wanted, as a member of a local church, you can be nominated for larger roles within the conference, such as sitting on a board or committee.

We, both myself as a pastor and us a church, belong to a conference because in Methodism, we believe in what is called "connectionalism." We believe that God's best is for us to be together. Yes, we are lots of singular churches standing on our own, but we are also connected in a district (Crest to Coast), and a conference (PNW), and a Jurisdiction (Western), and a Global community of people united in our mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Furthermore, we are connected to other denominations that also share our mission, we call this our "ecumenical commitment." We aren't better together because it's the easiest way, there are deep cultural divisions even on a small level, but because God tells us that only together are we the full expression of the Body of Christ.



You don't have to be an official member to be an official part of our church. But as the circle around our church grows, both literally and figuratively, I thought this month might be a good one to remind ourselves of what it means to be a member of our church, the United Methodist Church, and the Church.

If you are in need of prayer, someone to hold space for you, or simply a person to listen,

I am here for you! Please reach out by email or phone/text:

email: [wumcpastorleslie@gmail.com](mailto:wumcpastorleslie@gmail.com)      phone/text: (626) 340-5638.

It is an honor to be your pastor,

*Pastor Leslie*

# A Message from Pastor Leslie

## Membership Vows in the United Methodist Church

- † On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?
- † Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?
- † Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races?
- † As a member of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal and loving to the United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen and broaden its ministries?
- † As a member of Washougal United Methodist Church, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?
- † Will you commit to working with this community to seek God's direction and to face grief, questions, and doubts?
- † Will you rejoice with this community in times of new birth, celebration, and new opportunities to be Christ to the world?
- † Will you demand from this community justice and mercy for all people?
- † Will you work for forgiveness and reconciliation within yourself and this community?
- † Do all you can to increase your faith, confirm your hope and perfect your love.



# Church Council News

It's February already!

In January, your Church Council considered and approved a request from the Sunnyside Schoolhouse Coop school to not only reserve their classroom for the summer at \$100 per month, but they also told us they love being here. They love it so much that they would like to stay for the next school year! The space they had planned to rent at The Outpost would be OK, but our church is much more appealing! They are willing to work with us at any time we need the basement area, and especially during Bazaar week. There should be no interruption to our needs, and they will meet with Cleta and Joe to develop a detailed plan.



In light of the presence of children on our property during weekdays, we remind you to be especially careful as you access the parking areas on the lower level.

I would like to share the following note from last year's February Newsletter:

"As I'm sure you have noticed, our congregation is growing! One of our goals for 2023-24 was to increase our average Sunday attendance to 40 souls by Easter 2024. We now often have as many as 50 joining us for worship on Sunday mornings—an increase of about 13.5%"

This year, our highest attendance days not including holidays was 57 souls (!) and the average attendance for February last year was 42 souls, a 26% increase from February 2024 when the average was 31 souls. Thank you to Linda and Bob in the back who count attendees each week!

Sincerely,

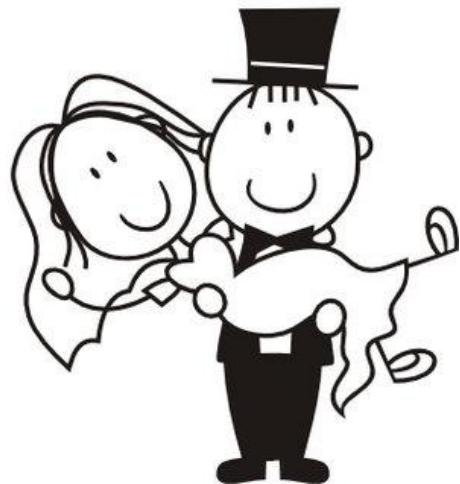
*Barb Crozier*

Church Council Chairwoman

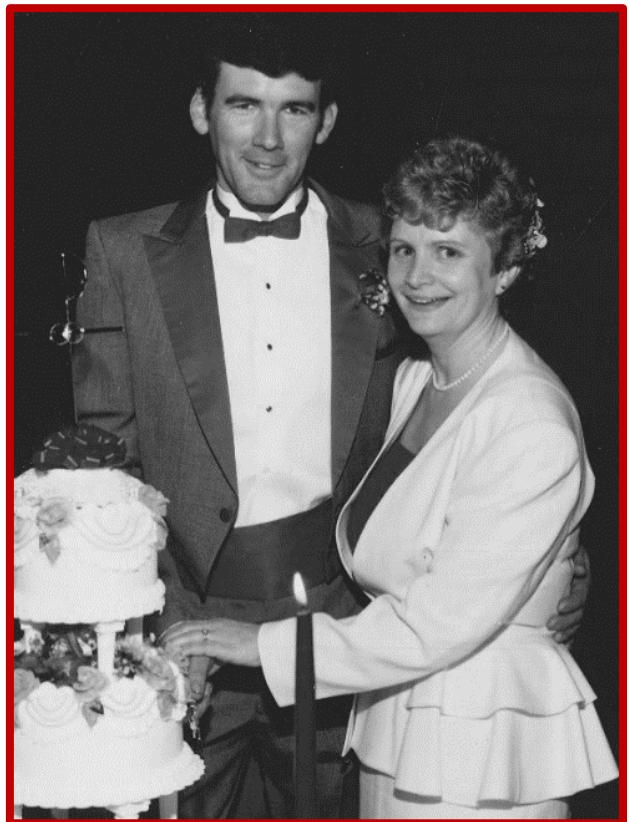
# Happy Anniversary



Gary & Shirlee Dedmore  
February 29, 1964  
Leap Year Anniversary!



Bob & Linn Jacobs  
February 25, 1989



# Happy Birthday

WISHING YOU A HAPPY AND VERY

# BLESSED *birthday*



Carol Fleming	February 3
Sharon Carmichael	February 4
Judy Neblock	February 5
Cathy Morton-Greenlee	February 10
Bob Hess	February 16
Pattie Roberts	February 17
Phyllis Gildehous	February 21
Clark Nichols	February 27



# Giving ~ December 2025

## INCOME

General Fund Giving	\$ 14,877.84
Endowment Transfer - Operations	895.98
Ministerial Housing Transfer	2,000.00
Bazaar Sales & Donations	221.50
Rental Income	300.00
Rental Income – Trustees	300.00
Checking Interest	.84
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$18,596.16</b>

## EXPENSES

Personnel	\$ 11,113.02
Apportionments	1,590.00
Rental Income - Trustees	300.00
Other Expenses	2234.98
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 15,238.00</b>

## NET PROFIT

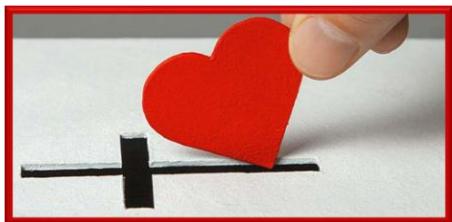
**\$ 2,644.38**

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## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Total Sales & Donations	\$ 20,000.18
Expenses & Treasure House Donations	<3,612.21>
NET PROFIT TO GENERAL FUND	<b>\$ 16,387.91</b>

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Remit to Post Office Box 12, Washougal, Washington 98671

**OR**

give online

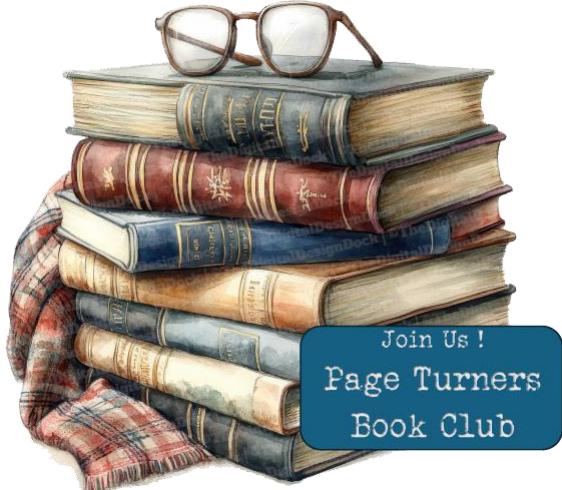
[www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://www.washougalunitedmethodistchurch.org)

**OR**

Drop your giving in the Offering Plate on Sunday.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Financial Secretary  
Lou Ann Wittler at 360.834.5677

# Page Turners



The Washougal United Methodist Church  
Book Club

## Page Turners

Meets every Third Tuesday of every month ~ Noon  
Leonardo's Pizzeria

### Judy Whetzel ~ Coordinator

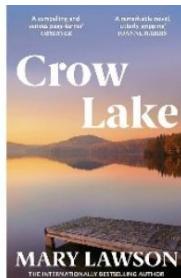
Leads the group and welcomes everyone to  
join the Club

Contact Judy at 360.600.9796 -  
maui.born62@gmail.com for more information

## Our 2026 Reading List through June

### February ~ Crow Lake

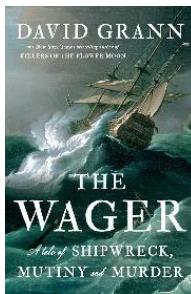
by Mary Lawson



The Morrison siblings have been haunted by tragedy since the sudden death of their parents in an accident when they were young. Kate found an escape from the legacy of their dark past in her passion for the natural world.

### March ~ The Wager

by David Grann



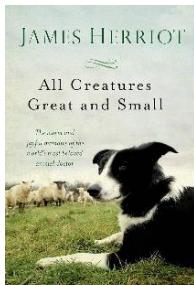
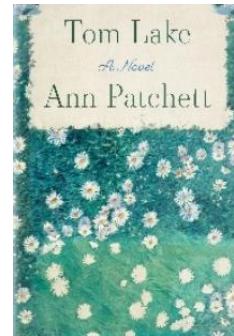
A rousing story of a maritime scandal...Drawing on a trove of firsthand accounts—logbooks, correspondence, diaries, court-martial testimony, and Admiralty and government records—Grann mounts a chilling, vibrant narrative...recounting the tumultuous events in tense detail...A brisk, absorbing history and a no-brainer for fans of the author's suspenseful historical thrillers.

# Page Turners

## April ~ Tom Lake

by Ann Patchett

Ann Patchett's novel *Tom Lake* is about a mother, Lara, who tells her three daughters the story of a youthful romance and acting career at a summer theater company called Tom Lake, all while during a pandemic cherry harvest on their Michigan orchard. The novel, narrated by Lara, intertwines the present-day story with memories of her passionate past with a famous actor, exploring themes of youthful love, marriage, family dynamics, and the choices that shape a life



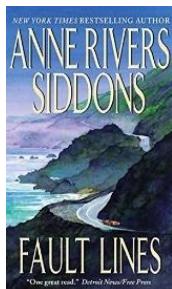
## May ~ All Creatures Great and Small

by James Herriot

James Herriot is a young vet fresh out of school and eager to find his place in the world. He answers an ad for a veterinary assistant in the Yorkshire Dales, and consequently does become part of a different world—a place full of memorable character.

## June ~ Fault Lines

by Ann Rivers Siddons



When her daughter runs away to her aunt in California, Merritt Fowler of Georgia takes a plane to bring her back, the trip a welcome change from a demanding husband and an equally demanding mother-in-law who is suffering from Alzheimer's. The scene is set for a steamy romance during an earthquake.



# God's Undying Love for Us

Ever wonder how many times **LOVE** is mentioned in the Bible?

According to the King James Version, the answer is **310 times** in 280 verses: 131 times in the Old Testament and 179 times in the New Testament.

But then again, when the King James Bible was updated into the New King James Version, the number changed. Love is mentioned **361 times**. The English Standard Version then came out claiming that love is mentioned **551 times**!

We have learned that there are **four types of love** found in the Bible. Over the years, scholars have broken down the text of the Bible and divided each example of love into one of four categories:

1. Eros:	passionate love
2. Storge:	love of parents for children
3. Philia:	love of friends and equals
4. Agape:	love of humankind



1 JOHN 4:19



# Black History Month



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

Here are a few interesting facts about Black History Month:

### **Black History Month Wasn't Always A Month.**

When it was first founded, Black History Month was only a week and was called Negro History Week. In the '60s, various colleges and universities expanded the recognition of African American history to the full month of February. Per the magazine 'People', President Gerald Ford officially recognized it as the month-long celebration that it is now.

### **Black History Month Was Founded in 1915.**

Harvard historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History to bring awareness to the African American people who had made contributions to society, but had been forgotten or left out of the narrative. That turned into Negro History Week, and later into Black History Month. Dr. Carter Woodson helped to create Black History month. He also did many more things in his life for African Americans, including establishing the Journal of Negro History in 1916 and the Negro History Bulletin in 1937. He did this as a way of giving Black scholars a place to publish their research and findings.

### **There Is A Reason We Celebrate BHM in February.**

History states that February wasn't just randomly chosen for Black History Month. Back when it was Negro History Week, the second week of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

### **Black History Month Has Different Themes.**

History also explains that every president decides on a specific theme for Black History Month. This has been done since 1976. The official theme for 2021: "Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity."



# American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, a national observance to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in the United States, encouraging Americans to learn about heart health, risk factors like high blood pressure and cholesterol, and adopt heart-healthy lifestyles, with key events including National Wear Red Day to support women's heart health. It's a time for education, promoting CPR awareness, and supporting the American Heart Association's efforts to prevent heart disease and stroke.



## Key Focuses

- **Awareness:**  
Highlighting that heart disease affects people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Prevention:**  
Promoting lifestyle changes such as healthy eating, regular physical activity, and avoiding smoking to manage risks.
- **Education:**  
Sharing resources on controlling blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, and recognizing heart disease symptoms.
- **Action:**  
Encouraging people to learn CPR and get involved in community health initiatives.



# Molly Coston

Our friend and fellow congregant, Molly Coston's Celebration of Life was held Saturday, January 24, 2026 at the Washburn Performing Arts Center at Washougal High School. The Program listed the following Community Service Opportunities that Molly had a hand in and encouraged us to be more like Molly:

- ♥ Community Chest
- ♥ East County Citizens Alliance
- ♥ Fort Vancouver Regional Library
- ♥ Habitat for Humanity
- ♥ Impact Camas/Washougal
- ♥ Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- ♥ Meals-on-Wheels People
- ♥ Pink Lemonade Project
- ♥ ReFuel Washougal
- ♥ Rotary Club of Camas-Washougal
- ♥ Salvation Army
- ♥ Steigerwald Refuge Stewards
- ♥ Two Rivers Heritage Museum
- ♥ UNITE
- ♥ Various School Programs
- ♥ Washougal Arts and Culture Alliance
- ♥ Washougal Boards and Commissions
- ♥ Washougal Ivy League
- ♥ West Columbia Gorge Humane Society
- ♥ WSAFE

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You can view the entire service here:

<https://www.facebook.com/WashougalGov>

Church Council, Barb Crozier wanted to share this link to an interview that took place in 1981 with Molly's Mom, Helen and Maureen O'Hara by Hugh Downs:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnAButk5B0k>

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*Gone  
but not  
Forgotten*



# Valentine's Day ❤



Some say it originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

As the years went on, the holiday grew sweeter. Chaucer and Shakespeare romanticized it in their work, and it gained popularity throughout Britain and the rest of Europe. Handmade paper cards became the tokens du jour in the Middle Ages.

Eventually, the tradition made its way to the New World. The Industrial Revolution ushered in factory-made cards in the 19th century. And in 1913, Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, Mo., began mass-producing valentines. February has not been the same since.

Fun fact about St. Valentine who died in 3rd century Rome on feast day February 14. He was named of one or two legendary Christian martyrs whose lives seem to be historically based. Although the Roman Catholic Church continues to recognize St. Valentine as a saint of the church. He is the patron saint of lovers, epileptics, and beekeepers.

## 16 FUN “FACTS” about our sweet Valentine’s Day

1. Cupid has its roots in Greek mythology.
2. The first valentine was sent in the 15th century.
3. Nearly 250 million roses are grown in preparation for Valentine's Day each year.
4. The color of flower given on Valentine's Day holds meaning.
5. Today, Americans spend a lot on love.
6. Americans send 145 million Valentine's Day cards each year.
7. The Valentine's Day gift that people spend the most on is jewelry.
8. The first heart-shaped box of chocolates was introduced in 1861.
9. Conversation hearts got their start as medical lozenges.
10. But it wasn't until 1866 that we first got sweet, printed messages on conversation hearts.
11. More than 8 billion conversation hearts are manufactured each year.
12. Words of encouragement were added to Sweethearts in 2022.
13. Nearly 6 million couples get engaged on Valentine's Day.
14. Valentine's Day horror movies are a thing.
15. Four states have a city named Valentine.
16. The first person to complete and return the Valentine's Day Word Search gets a surprise!

# Valentine's Day



E P Z N R W H E Z J A H C T I T C B Z I  
Q O E F A L S M V J G B M P W Q I M H N  
E N E X F U T B Q J E E L Y F W W X F D  
V W K A Q V Y D E W K W O G Q X R M K L  
R S V Y B S D W S T J X E Y J S Z C V J  
W Q P J T U X W H R H R Z L Z P I D J M  
R E L A T I O N S H I P S U R J K A J L  
K E H I X S I I Q I B B H Q O Y F R T I  
L V Y Z X H S S L D P U P P I E S L P D  
U X D C H O C O L A T E S U L L J I R A  
S U M F O C R F E B R U A R Y V P N T T  
B X U I H U G J M P W L Z O K I V G A E  
Z V E F C N K P O P R N O N Q U N D N S  
A P Q R U X L R R X O J C V F D B I O K  
I Z I P P G H E O C B P A X E V U L T I  
F L V V I X W S I U R C D D C V V C S S  
S T E D D Y B E A R S C B Y W M D U I S  
N A R O S E S S N A I W X Y J P Q M C G Y  
Y P V A L E N T I N E X J Y E T G V C A  
T C X Z V A P S I P R O P O S A L X M C

Relationships

Teddy Bears

Chocolates

Valentine

Proposal

February

Presents

Puppies

Darling

Cupid

Roses

Jewelry

Love

Hug

Date

Kiss



# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>February is American Heart Month</b> 		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 10 	Ground Hog Day Men's Coffee - 9 Dress-A-Girl 10-2	Carol Fleming Birthday	Sharon Carmichael Birthday Mona's 7 <sup>th</sup> Workaversary as WUMC Secretary	Judy Neblock Birthday	National Wear Red Day in observance of Heart Disease in Women	Mill Plain UMC Leadership Retreat 12-5 Fellowship Hall
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Super Bowl Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11	Men's Coffee - 9 Dress-A-Girl 10-2	Cathy Morton-Greenlee Birthday		Lincoln's BD		Valentines Day 
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10 	Bob Hess Birthday 	Pattie Roberts Birthday Page Turners Noon Leonardo's	Ash Wednesday 	Church Council 3		Phyllis Gildehous Birthday
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10 Coffee Hour 11 Washington's BD	Men's Coffee - 9 Dress-A-Girl 10-2		Bob & Linn Jacobs Anniversary	Clark Nichols Birthday	Community Outreach Group 10-12 Fellowship Hall	FEBRUARY 29, 1964 Gary & Shirlee Dedmore  62 Anniversary 16 <sup>th</sup> Leap Yearaversary

**WASHOUGAL  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**



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